

Biting Policy.

Providers are responsible for managing childrens behaviour in an appropriate way.

EYFS Statutory Guidance pages 26

Our policy for Biting is:

We believe:

Biting is quite common in nurseries as many children pass through it as part of their stage of development. Biting incidents can be difficult to deal with.

Children bite for a number of reason;

- **They're in pain-** when babies bite, typically its because they are teething.
- **They're exploring their world-** Very young children and sensory seeking children often use their mouths to explore the world around them, just as they use they're hands.
- **They're looking for a reaction-** Part of exploration is curiosity. Toddlers experiment to see what kind of reaction their action will provoke.
- **They're craving attention-** In older children, biting is just one of several negative behaviors used to get attention and is not a typical behavior of an older child.
- **They're frustrated-** Biting, like hitting, is a way for some children to assert themselves when they are still too young to express feelings effectively through words.

Our procedures around biting are:

We support this by:

- Offering teething rings, fruit/veg, or rusks
- Avoiding situations where the child can get irritable enough to bit, making sure children's needs are being met i.e having a nap, spending time outside.
- Encouraging and supporting children to use language to express their emotions
- Giving the child attention and support throughout the day. Keeping an eye on their play mates and social situations and supporting these as is necessary.

After biting:

- Comfort will be given immediately to the child who has been bitten.
- Use a clam voice but firm voice the member of staff will address the biter with a firm 'no biting' or biting hurts'.
- Comfort the biter if necessary, toddlers may not realise that biting hurts. Its ok to comfort them.
- Offer alternatives. When things have clamed the practitioner will suggest alternatives to biting, supporting their use of language to express their needs

and feelings.

- Reduce frustration and redirect. Practitioners will ensure that environment meets the needs of the child. They may redirect the child's attention in a positive manner such as dancing to music or running outside.
- A discussion will be had with both parents to inform them of the incident and the outcome.

Some Advice for Parents/Carers

- Plan some activities that may distract the child from biting.
- Observe the child to identify any patterns of behaviour that may lead to a biting incident.
- Respond promptly, firmly, consistently and calmly.
- Show your disapproval, remove him/her from the situation and help him/her find another outlet for his/her feelings
- **Don't bite back** – this is terrifying for the child and reinforces the very thing you don't want them to learn.
- Give your child positive attention every day focusing on what they do well. This will help to build up his/her self-esteem.